**Topic**For this research project, I have decided to do undertake an examination of the issues related to teenage suicide. This topic interests me because I get curious why young people do this; what factors influence this; and what we as a society can do to prevent this. It is one of the leading causes of death of young people in modern society. As I aspire to be a health professional in the future, I think this project will help me a lot with empathizing with patients and individuals and gain a sense of understanding about the psychological causes. My research statement is: *The leading causes of death in teenagers.*

**Guiding Questions**For this topic, I have developed a set of focus questions that will frame my research:

1. What is suicide? – What makes it different to other causes of death
2. What factors influence young people to commit suicide?
3. What support agencies provide help to young people who consider suicide?
4. What are the rates of suicide for young people in the new century?
5. What can individuals do to respond to the issues related to suicide?
6. What are the variety of perspectives on youth suicide

**Research Methods**For these guiding questions, I plan on using various methods of research to help me answer these questions. Examples of my planned research methods include:

* Resource centre – use of books and news articles.
* Internet searches – news articles, EBSCOHOST, Google searches.
* Interviews with specialists – psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors.
* Survey individuals for opinions – students, parents (different age groups)

To gain a deeper sense of understanding, 2 people that I know of who have been in the depression/suicide position have volunteered to contribute to this project with their personal experiences. I will take extra care to be ethical and not put them in a position that does psychological harm or make them feel uncomfortable in any way. I will create a disclaimer form explaining what will be happening and if they agree to it; both myself and them will sign it.

**Capabilities**Learning is the main element in every research project – we try to learn more about our topic and understand how it influences the world, and then contribute to the existing knowledge on youth suicide.  
Personal development because as this is my own project, I will develop new skills in researching and or strengthen previous research skills. I will also

**Presentation**I decided that I will decide to present my research in an essay as I would like this to contribute to my ATAR score. I will consider any changes near the end of the research project where I need to submit my choice of A or B where B contributes to ATAR.

**Ethical Consideration**As my project is about suicide, I will need to take care when interviewing or surveying individuals and make sure they don’t do anything they’re uncomfortable with. As technique I will use to prevent this is to explain what my survey is about, and have a list of optional questions in which they can choose to answer or not. I will also keep all my results confidential as any professional researcher would do.